

Morgantown, West Virginia River Town Action Team Meeting
 MINUTES DECEMBER 5, 2013 4:30-6:00 PM

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED	First Thursday of each month, 4:30-6:00 pm Next meeting: March 6, 2014; Hazel Ruby McQuain Park; 4:30- 6:00 pm
MEETING CALLED BY	West Virginia River Town Program
MEETING LOCATION	Hazel Ruby McQuain Park
FACILITATOR	Cathy McCollom, Director, River Town Program
NOTE TAKER	Cathy McCollom and Steve Selin, West Virginia River Town Program Manager--, csn@mccollomds.com ; sselin@wvu.edu
ATTENDEES	Rumy Hilloowala
	Mike Fike
	Cathy McCollom, Director, River Town Program
	Dr. Steve Selin, West Virginia River Town Program Manager
	George Papandreas, Main Street Morgantown
	Bill Kaweck, Councilman, Morgantown
	Chad Pierskalla, WVU
	Jenny Selin, Mayor, Morgantown
	Kent Spellman, West Virginia Economic Development Hub
	Kudzayi Maumbe, WVU
	Peggy Pings, National Park Service, Rivers and Trails Conservation Program
	Ella Belling, Mon River Trails Conservancy
	Anna Withrow, WVU
	Derek Springston, WVU
	Rodney Bohner
	Marti Shamberger
	Ryan Jowson, WVU
	Mark Wise, BOPARC
	Don Spencer
	Kevin Meehan
	David Bott, City of Morgantown
	Wally Venable

	Sandra Fallon
	Mary Gainer

Agenda Topics

Dr. Pierskalla and his WVU Parks and Recreation class briefed the Action Team on a class project involving amenity improvements to the Hazel Ruby McQuain Park area. Student concepts and designs have been provided to our River Town planning group and included some exciting ideas such as a wetlands conservation plan and a singing riverfront fountain.

15 MINUTES

INTENT TO APPLY FOR TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDING FOR TRAIL PATH FROM TOWN TO TRAIL AND RIVERFRONT

ELLA BELLING/ BOPARC/CM

DISCUSSION	Intent to Apply for Transportation Enhancement Funding	
Ella Belling, with agreement from the city and BOPARC, will submit an intent to apply for funding to connect Mon River trail to High Street in Morgantown under the Deckers Creek bridge including signage, lighting and possible a business directory.		
CONCLUSIONS	Following discussion it was determined that the application could be made through BOPARC (written by Ella Belling) for “trail amenity” package that would include lighting and signing the path under the Deckers Creek bridge connecting with Downtown Morgantown. It was further agreed that the present Morgantown Signage Plan and Design concepts should be used to incorporate directional signage from town to trail and trail to town. Also lighting the underpass would be necessary.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Photos of project location including bridge underpass and the appropriate possible sites for directional signage in town and by the trail	Steve Selin	January 15, 2014
Review of existing sign plan, concepts and designs to determine which signs are appropriate	Cathy McCollom	January 30, 2014
Research and outline Highway Department’s regulations on vehicular signage for possible future proposals	Cathy McCollom/Ella Belling	January30, 2014
Submit Intent to Apply following contacts with BOPARC and City	Ella Belling	December 13, 2013

5 MINUTES**VENDOR REGULATIONS****CM/STEVE/MORGANTOWN
OFFICIALS**

DISCUSSION	Vendor rules and regulations emerged as a topic at the previous action team meeting. The City of Morgantown was in the process of developing a vendor permitting structure.	
CONCLUSIONS	Vendors are regulated by the city manager. Vendors are allowed during special events. Vending carts are allowed, with a permit, at other times. Vending trucks are currently allowed between 11 pm and 6 am.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Research needed on vendors who might have participated in events in Morgantown before. A database to be established for future use.	Steve	1/30/14

10 MINUTES**PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS****CM**

DISCUSSION	Steve Selin distributed material from Vision 2020, a previous Morgantown Chamber of Commerce planning effort, completed in 2006. This material outlined specific goals. These goals are noted below.
<p>GOALS TO ACHIEVE THE VISION FOR RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT AND CAPERTON TRAIL (VISION 2020 PLAN):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Complete paving of the Caperton Trail and the clearing of growth and underbrush beneath the river and the trail. 2) Complete construction of the hotel-conference center and office building complex immediately south of the Wharf District 3) Complete development of Hazel Ruby McQuain Park and amphitheater and a new city park along the river between the WVU Arboretum and Stansbury Hall. 4) Construct and maintain public marinas, docks, and fishing piers at various locations to encourage recreational use of the river. 5) Create a water taxi system with docking stations at the convention center, Wharf District, Seneca Center, and other appropriate locations. 6) Renovate or replace, Stansbury Hall to compliment the amenity value of the riverfront 7) Promote alternative facilities and incentives for the relocation of industrial firms and auto-oriented businesses away from the river. 8) Install attractive low-level lighting along the Caperton Trail and the Westover riverbank. 9) Develop and implement a public safety plan to assure the security of persons using the Caperton Trail and the river. 	

CONCLUSIONS	The priorities that developed from the River Town assessment compliment earlier planning efforts and will be pursued to the extent possible over the next three years.	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Further review of plans to determine what has been accomplished and what remains to be done. What are the community’s priorities for implementation?. Outline to be drafted of priorities from plans.	Steve to work with City	2/15/14
Report back City’s priorities, work completed to date on the riverfront recommendations of Vision 2020 at the next River Town Meeting	Steve	3/2014

20 MINUTES

PRIORITIES: SHORT TERM

ALL

DISCUSSION	<p>McCollom reviewed possible projects articulated through River Town assessment process:</p> <p>SIGNAGE – TO TOWN, FROM TOWN, PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICULAR</p> <p>VIEW CORRIDORS</p> <p>LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE OF RIVERS EDGE</p> <p>LIGHTS</p> <p>ACCESS</p> <p>IMPROVED MAINTENANCE OF PARK AMENITIES</p> <p>PLAYGROUND FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN, TOT LOT</p> <p>MORE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</p>
CONCLUSIONS	<p>Many opportunities for short term projects. Action Team determined that the first projects should be:</p> <p>1) signage including a business directory with map and services listed at trail head; better directional signage to park;</p> <p>2) explore a Tot Lot in the park, review issues of flooding and possible location</p> <p>3) View Corridors; Riverfront Clean up: A kick off spring community event with possibly kayak lessons'; clearing river corridors and cleaning up riverfront. There is also a tour canal boat presently under construction that could be included in the spring kick off. Clean up might include university students and possible assist in staining and painting—with supervision—park equipment.</p> <p>4) Better Lighting of the trail; possibly on PRT poles</p> <p>5) Reach out to WVU as a Riverfront development partner</p> <p>6) Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), map priority data layers for riverfront development decision-making.</p>

	7) Explore the need for a comprehensive riverfront development plan that would tie together many of these short-term, mid-term, and long-term projects	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Convene a Trail Amenities Committee to outline steps for signage, lighting, view corridors	Committee members: Peggy Pings, Jenny Selin,. Bill Kawecki, Steve Selin, Cathy McCollom, Ella Belling, George P (as advisor)	Set up meeting in January; report out at March meeting; complete Enhancement application for submission.
<p>The Great Allegheny Passage developed a comprehensive signage design and construction package. These samples will be distributed for review and discussion at next action team meeting. http://www.atatrail.org/docs/GAPGuidelines.pdf</p> <p>The Mon River Trail Conservancy has signage up along the trail; review of the existing signage, its design and concepts should take place with Ella and others to determine how new signage would fit</p>	CSM	December 15, 2014 Signage examples to be distributed to Action Team members
Mon River Trails, Deckers Creek, Caperton have signs; there are standards and some restrictions. Samples and more detail to be provided at next meeting	Ella	January 30, 2014
Photos needed of proposed pathway from trail to town under Deckers Creek Bridge	Steve	January 15, 2014
Museum Tug Boat Tour in association with Spring Launch	Steve to check out details with Morgantown Museum	January 30, 2014
Outline aspects and details for community engagement spring event; clear corridors (coordinate with BOPARC); kayak lessons (Steve to check with WVU kayak club/Adventure WV); public outreach to be determined (Steve and Cathy); Work with Peggy Pings at NPS for outreach. The spring launch event will take place in April so details must be outlined and coordinated for final review and approval of Action Team at March meeting.	Cathy, Steve, Mark Wise, Ella Belling, Greg Corio, others?	February 20, 2014; report and update at March meeting

Mary Gainer, resident volunteered to research best location for Tot Lots; Information regarding standards to be sent to Mary (Cathy)	Mary Gainer/Mark Wise	Report and update at March meeting
Convene a meeting with key city staff to explore the need for a comprehensive riverfront development plan.	Cathy, Steve, Jeff Mikorski, Jenny Selin, Bill Kawecki, Chris Fletcher	Update at March meeting
Build a GIS database of important data layers to inform riverfront development decision-making, partnering with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)	Steve/Jeff Mikorski/Chris Fletcher/Ella/MPO staff	Update at March Meeting
Set up a meeting with key WVU leaders in planning, facilities, and transportation.	Cathy, Steve, Jenny Selin, Jeff Mikorski, Bill Kawecki	Report at March meeting

15 MINUTES

PROJECTS: MID TERM PROJECTS

ALL

DISCUSSION	Other projects were discussed and determined to be important and should be implemented as soon as possible. Design guidelines for riverfront development (WVU students); Continuing to connect more effectively to residential communities in the area; research the usage of Wharf District to determine how best to enliven; includes a better understanding of present land owner issues and plans;		
CONCLUSIONS	The mid -term projects will be implemented as soon as funding can be found. A greater understanding of the needs for the boat launch and public marina access points are needed; the property lines of public vs. private ownership needs to be better understood. Nearby businesses, including owners of industrial properties, in the area should be inventoried and approached about involvement and willingness to discuss visual improvements to their properties.		
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Inventory all businesses and attractions, amenities in Morgantown for web site addition; spectacular photos as well. Use existing town information on site as model.		SS	January 30, 2014
Urban Landscape class involvement?		Nancy Ganz	January 30, 2014
What lighting is needed where and which residential development?		SS/Ella/Mark Wise	

Sewer Smell	SS to communicate with the Morgantown Utility Board (MUB)	

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES	All short, mid and long term projects will be determined by the ability to fund. An on-going task for all River Town Action Team members should be searching for resources. All information related to prospective resources should be sent to McCollom or Selin. Partners such as Friends of Deckers Creek, the Mon River Trail Conservancy, Mainstreet Morgantown, and WVU should be approached about collaborative projects.
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20 MINUTES

PRIORITIES: LONGER TERM

ALL

DISCUSSION	Improvement of industrial buildings along the trail: Art/Lights on the back of buildings along the trail. DOH Signs for Vehicular access; better directional and wayfinding signage throughout community. Other long term projects will be determined in upcoming meetings. A Singing Fountain (student project)? Chad's class	
CONCLUSIONS	The longer -term projects will be implemented as soon as funding can be found. Research and review of existing conditions is necessary in some cases. Meet and confer with other organizations to determine what has been done to date; what their priorities are and can we work together?	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Develop itineraries in and around Morgantown, emphasis on Wharf District for inclusion on the web site. Determine existing product for inclusion prior to creating new.	CM (work with Visitors Bureau and Main Street)	May, 2014
Determine the rules and regulations of highway signage; is there flexibility? If we create designs to be used along all river towns, can the highway/vehicular signs be related. Community leaders to meet with DOH	Jeff Mikorski/Jenny Selin/Bill Kawecki	April, 2014
Develop loop trail with Star City, Granville, on road	SS to map route for further discussion and next steps	Report by Spring, 2014

Research costs of SHARROW signs	CM/Steve	Jan. 30, 2014
Explore involvement of WVU Class /explore formalized relationship with Cal U around River Town program	Steve	Report by summer, 2014

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTES	<p>State funding should be explored for longer term projects; meetings with partners need to be held so we better understand their priorities and how we can fit together. All Action Team members are encouraged to send possible organizational partner names to McCollom or Selin.</p> <p>MCCOLLOM csm@mccollomds.com 814-395-9139 (office) 814-521-3520 (cell)</p> <p>SELIN sselin@wvu.edu 304-293-7033 (office) 304-216-6399 (cell)</p>	
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